

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A fixing assembly for securing a fixing member to a surface of a component, said the fixing assembly comprising:

the said surface of the component;

a fixing member and a ~~fixing screw~~, wherein (a) the said surface comprises a female location feature and said the fixing member comprises a male location feature, or (b) the surface comprises male location feature and the fixing member comprises being formed with a female location feature and a male location feature respectively, or vice versa, such that in use, said the male and female location features fitting together in use;; and

a said fixing screw that passes through an aperture in said the fixing member to secure the said fixing member to the said surface.

2. (Currently Amended) A The fixing assembly of as claimed in claim 1, wherein the in which said fixing screw is available for securing said the component to a second component.

3. (Currently Amended) A The fixing assembly of as claimed in claim 1 or 2 in which, wherein the fixing screw is external to said the surface of the component.

4. (Currently Amended) A The fixing assembly of as claimed in claim 1 ,2 or 3 in which said, wherein each of the male and female location features such have at least one corresponding undercut to form so that in use an interference fit in use is formed between said male and female locating features.

5. (Currently Amended) A The fixing assembly of as claimed in claim 4, wherein in which the interference fit forms a dovetail joint.

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6. (Currently Amended) A The fixing assembly of as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 in which claim 1, wherein the male location feature comprises at least one portion that is generally flat prismatic (flat) in profile.

7. (Currently Amended) A The fixing assembly of as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 in which claim 1, wherein the male location feature comprises at least one portion that is conical in profile.

8. (Currently Amended) A The fixing assembly of as claimed in any preceding claim in which claim 1, wherein the male location feature has a slit, such that the male location feature is divided into two arms.

9. (Currently Amended) A The fixing assembly of as claimed in claim 8, wherein in which the male location feature having a slit is located on the fixing member.

10. (Currently Amended) A The fixing assembly of as claimed in claim 9, wherein in which the fixing member is formed such that the slit extends radially from the aperture of the fixing member, through said location feature.

11. (Currently Amended) A The fixing assembly of as claimed in claim 10, wherein in which the slit is formed in a plane substantially parallel to the axis of the aperture.

12. (Currently Amended) A The fixing assembly of as claimed in claim 10, wherein in which the slit is formed in a plane substantially perpendicular to the axis of the aperture.

13. (Currently Amended) A The fixing assembly of as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 11 in which said claim 7, wherein the male location feature is of a resiliently deformable material.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A The fixing assembly of as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which claim 1, wherein the location feature of surface of the component is at least partly located on a rim of said the surface.~~

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A The fixing assembly of as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which claim 1, wherein the fixing screw has a head.~~

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A The fixing assembly of as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 13 in which claim 9, wherein the fixing screw has a thickened portion such that pushes apart the two arms of the male location feature when the fixing screw is screwed into the aperture of the said male fixing member having at least one male location feature with a slit, the arms of the location feature are pushed apart.~~

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A The fixing assembly of as claimed in any preceding claim in which said claim 1, wherein the surface of the component has a threaded portion adjacent a the at least one location feature for engaging the fixing screw as the fixing screw is inserted into the , such that, in use, as said fixing screw is screwed into said aperture of the fixing member, said fixing screw engages with said threaded portion.~~

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A The fixing assembly of as claimed in any preceding claim in which said claim 1, wherein the surface of the component has a circumferential groove forming said the female location feature to lock the fixing member to the component.~~

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A The fixing assembly of as claimed in claim 1, wherein in which the female location feature is on the fixing member and the male location feature is on the said surface of the component.~~

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A The fixing assembly of as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which claim 1, wherein the first component is an acetabular cup.~~

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A The fixing assembly of as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 19 in which claim 1, wherein~~ the said surface of a ~~the~~ component is the a surface of a cup of a prosthetic ball and socket joint.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A The fixing assembly of as claimed in any preceding claim in which claim 1, wherein~~ the fixing member is secured to an external surface of a ~~the~~ component.

23. (Currently Amended) A kit of parts for a fixing assembly for securing a fixing member to a surface of a component, the kit comprising:

~~at least one component, each component comprising a surface; of a component;~~

~~a fixing member and a fixing screw, wherein (a) each surface of a component comprises a female location feature and the said surface and said fixing member comprises a male location feature, or (b) each surface of a component comprises a male location feature and the fixing member comprises being formed with a female location feature, and a male location feature respectively, or vice versa, such that when the kit of parts is assembled, said the male and female location features configured to fit together in use, and~~

~~a said fixing screw that passes through an aperture in said the fixing member to secure the said fixing member to the said surface of one of the at least one component.~~

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The kit of claim 23, wherein A kit of parts as claimed in claim 23 in which the fixing member is secured to an external surface of a component.~~

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The kit of claim 23, wherein the A kit of parts as claimed in claim 23 in which said surface of one of the at least one a component is the surface of a cup of a prosthetic ball and socket joint.~~

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The kit of claim 23, wherein the A kit of parts as claimed in any one of claims 23 to 25 in which the said fixing screw is available for securing said one of the at least one component to another a second component.~~

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Claim 27 (cancelled)